CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel for holding melting metals, holding molten metals, and transporting said liquid metals, the vessel comprising:

a selectively open and closed cover;

at least one of resistive heater elements and inductive heaters;

at least one discharge channel;

a cavity within the vessel;

at least one ceramic thermally insulating layer of at least one of a fiber and an expandable material forming a textile surface structure covering the internal surfaces of the cavity and the at least one discharge surface.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the textile surface structure has high shock strength, thermal strength, and high coefficient of elasticity.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the textile structure has a low thermal conductivity and a low accumulation of heat.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the textile structure is of low weight and can comprise a plurality of layers.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the textile 3D structure is made of textured ceramic fibers.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the textile surface structure can be lined.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the at least one thermally insulating layer is affixed to at least one of an inner surface of the cover, an engaging pin, and a fixed pin.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the at least one thermally insulating layer is seamless.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the at least one thermally insulating layer has seams.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An open and closed metal vessel as claimed by claim 7, characterized in that the at least one thermally insulating layer is made of glass foam.

11. (NEW) The metal vessel of claim 7 wherein the at least one thermally insulating layer is made of ceramic fiber.